



Peninsula City Church

Engaging the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Gifts that are to be given

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14th August 2016 the AM Service

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The Holy Gifts

An Introduction

Q. Do you desire a for a world that is a better place?

Well, do you know that, it can be a better place? This can be done through the Holy Spirit who is in you and desires to work through you. You take His presence with you wherever you go. Do you know that He desires to touch the world around you with His holy gifts? If that is the case, do you desire the best gifts of the Spirit; to keep for yourself, or to pass on to those around you? You can find originality in the Holy Spirit and His gifts and how to use them where you live, work and play.

Have you ever heard of Henry Varley?

“Henry Varley, a British revivalist who had befriended the young American in Dublin, recalled that in 1873 D.L. Moody asked him to recount words they had spoken in private conversation a year earlier, just before Moody’s return to the United States. ‘The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the person who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him.’”¹

Maybe you are that person? Maybe we are that group of people? But what will it take for the world to see this and be a better place? It may be the world of your home, work, school, uni, sports club, street, shopping centre etc. Let us look at the possibilities of what needs to be done and what could be.

1. The gifts focus on God the Holy Spirit

Q. How do you understand the work of the Holy Spirit?

You have been chosen to a person who can shape the world where you have been planted by God. You can be divinely single-minded and imaginative as kingdom thinkers. His chosen Holy Spirit led and empowered ones who do not conform to the world around you. You can step out in the Power of the Holy Spirit in the face of risk for the kingdom Theocracy and not for democracy.

In light of this, the following summary of the work of the Holy Spirit is a contextual evaluation within the series that we are currently reviewing. He is called the Holy Spirit. Now you may be thinking, “Well, now that’s obvious.” However, did you get what was just said, He is the HOLY Spirit. This God in all His, absolutely pure and unadulterated, Holiness that is far beyond any understanding that any or all of us could ever have. In fact,

“The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy. He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or justice, justice, justice. It does say that He is holy, holy, holy, the whole earth is full of His glory.”²

Isaiah in chapter six of his letter recorded a vision that he had about the holiness of God,

¹ “It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the Temple. ² Attending Him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!’ ⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke” (Is 6:1-4 NLT).

¹ Fackler, Mark. “The World Has Yet to See...” Christian History. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-25/world-has-yet-to-see.html> (26th July 2016).

² Sproul, R.C. The Holiness of God. (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1985), 40.

The again we read of a John having a vision while imprisoned on a rock island for his faith in Jesus Christ,

⁶ “In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. ⁷ The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. ⁸ Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come’” (Rev 4:6-8).

The beings around the throne of God are so overwhelmed with His holiness cannot do anything but declare how holy that He is in all of His nature. So, when Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit, means that He is Holy, Holy, Holy.

²⁶ “However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you” (Jn 14:26 NLT).

Therefore, when we received the Holy Spirit we as the church became His holy temple. In the book of Leviticus especially in chapters 11 and 16, it deals with the holy that can be made unholy (unclean), by being contaminated by the unholy. As a result of being unclean a person needed to be quarantined and then cleansed again to be holy again. However, when Jesus Christ came an amazing thing happened. When He went out amongst the unclean of the world He was not contaminated. But He had the opposite effect by touching them with His holy and drawing them towards the holy kingdom of God. Jesus had the Holy Spirit of God with Him and began building a new temple for the Holy Spirit, from those that He impacted.

Paul picked up on this truth and taught the local Corinthian and Ephesian churches about this,

¹⁶ “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple” (1 Cor 3:16-17 NLT).

¹⁷ “But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him... ¹⁹ Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself” (1 Cor 6:17,19 NLT).

¹⁹ “So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. ²⁰ Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit” (Eph 2:19-22 NLT).

As did Peter when he said,

⁴ “You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honour. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What’s more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God” (1 Pet 2:4-5 NLT).

So, when Chris-followers go out amongst the unclean of the world they are not contaminated. But we have the opposite effect, touching them with the holy touch of the Holy Spirit and drawing them towards the holy kingdom of God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit of God into the church and began building a new temple for the Holy Spirit, from those that He impacted. This includes you and me.

2. The Holy Spirit's gifts focus on others

Q. What is your focus regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

For many a Christ-follower the focus is on them or their local church or organisation. However, the focus needs to be on God the Holy Spirit and on those whom He wants the gifts to go to and draw towards the holy kingdom of God. Remember that they are gifts from the Holy Spirit, so He owns them and circulates them as He wills, 1 Cor 12:11. There is a variation of grace-gifts, services, workings for the world to focus on God. The benefit of these gifts is for the common good (1 Cor 12:7).

There are various gifts that put the focus back on God the giver and then on the ones that are to receive them, 1 Cor 12:8-10, and 28-30 etc. Although, it has been said,

“Sadly, many marketplace Christians are unaware of the spiritual gifts entrusted to them for fulfilling the disciple-making and world-transforming mission of the church.”³

However, He is the One, who is giving them out as He chooses,

“It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides, which gift each person should have” (1 Cor 12:11 NLT).

The gifts are for other not you. You are the intermediate for passing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit for whom they are intended. An illustration that may help here is that of a house and its downpipes. When it rains the rain falls onto the roof and flows into the gutters and down the downpipes to the ground. So, the rain comes from above and ends up on the ground as it waters it. Now the downpipes pass the water from the roof to the ground, but it is not all about the downpipes. Rather, it is about the rain getting to the ground. So it is with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is not all about the one that He chooses to use to pass the gifts on. Instead, firstly it is about the Holy Spirit who owns the gifts in the first place. In the final analysis it is then about the one, who receives the gift and is healed, encouraged, directed etc. The one who receives and passes on the gift, is like the downpipe, they are obeying the Holy Spirit. This is the role that the Christ-follower plays the distribution of the spiritual gifts that have been given by the Holy Spirit to the world around us. Christ-followers are not meant to be buckets and keep the gifts for them self.

Another illustration may help take this further. Have you ever gone out for dinner, cut up your meal and then proceeded to put your food into the salt shaker? Sounds crazy doesn't it. I would expect that you would sprinkle the salt on to your food. However, too many see the gifts of the Holy Spirit as being for use solely in the Sunday service. But we are called the salt of the world, Matt 5:13. As, the salt of the world we are sprinkled out into the world and the Holy Spirit is wanting to pass on His gifts through us to the world around us. Imagine this,

“Today, marketplace Christians all over the world are using their spiritual gifts for ministry in business. Consider these real-life examples:

- Real-estate developer with the gift of faith
- Business consultant with the gift of intercessory prayer
- Professional athlete with the gift of healing
- Author with the gift of worship
- Department store owner with the gift of hospitality

³ “How to Use Your Spiritual Gifts in Business.” <http://ministrytodaymag.com/life/marketplace/22460-using-spiritual-gifts-in-business> (9th August 2016).

- Venture capitalist with the gift of cross-cultural ministry
- Manufacturing CEO with the gift of compassion.”⁴

So what about you, why can't the Holy Spirit do this through you in your family, workplace, school, uni, sports club, or street etc? Someone else has insightfully said on the matter that,

“Through His Holy Spirit, God has graciously given spiritual gifts to every born-again Christian for accomplishing the purpose of the Church, which is to ‘make disciples of all nations’ (Matt 28:19). In other words, our spiritual gifts have been given by God to help the people influenced by our businesses—customers, clients, vendors, co-workers, bosses, board members, shareholders, etc.—to become more like Jesus Christ. According to the Great Commission, the goal is for entire nations to become like Jesus.”⁵

Some concluding thoughts

So, coming back to the opening question,

Q. As a Christ-follower, do you desire a for a world that is a better place?

If the aim is to make the world a better place through the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, what are you prepared to do about it? If you are a Chris-follower it is time to go out amongst the unclean of the world as you will not be contaminated. But we can have the opposite influence, touching the world around us with the holy touch of the Holy Spirit and draw them towards the holy kingdom of God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit of God into the church and began building a new temple for the Holy Spirit, from those that He impacted. This includes you and me.

So, what do we need to do about all of this then? How would you answer the following questions?

- Well, probably the first place to start is, do you realise that as a son or daughter of God you have received His Holy Spirit when you were born from above?
- Next, ask yourself if you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit?
- Then ask yourself if you really desire to touch the world around you with His holy gifts.
- If that is the case, do you desire the best gifts of the Spirit; to keep for yourself, or to pass on to those around you?
- Is there anything that may be hindering you from engaging the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

When Israel was preparing to go in and take the land and make it theirs, he told them to purify or consecrate themselves. It has been pointed out that,

“Before I tell you what consecration is, let me tell you what it isn't.

- It's not going to church once a week.
- It's not daily devotions.
- It's not fasting during Lent.
- It's not keeping the Ten Commandments.
- It's not sharing your faith with friends.

⁴ “How to Use Your Spiritual Gifts in Business.” <http://ministrytodaymag.com/life/marketplace/22460-using-spiritual-gifts-in-business> (9th August 2016).

⁵ “Are Spiritual Gifts for the Marketplace?” <http://www.theologyofbusiness.com/spiritual-gifts-in-the-marketplace/> (9th August 2016).

- It's not giving God the tithe.
- It's not repeating the sinner's prayer.
- It's not volunteering for a ministry.
- It's not leading a small group.
- It's not raising your hands in worship.
- It's not going on a mission trip.

All of those things are good things, but that isn't consecration. It's more than behaviour modification. It's more than conformity to a moral code. It's more than doing good deeds. It's something deeper, something truer.

The word consecrate means, to set yourself apart. By definition, consecration demands full devotion. It's dethroning yourself and enthroning Jesus Christ. It's the complete divestiture of all self-interest. It's giving God veto power. It's surrendering all of you to all of Him. It's a simple recognition that every second of time, every ounce of energy, and every cent of money is a gift from God and for God. Consecration is an ever-deepening love for Jesus, a childlike trust in the heavenly Father, and total obedience to the Holy Spirit. Consecration is all that and a thousand things more. But for the sake of simplicity, let me give you my personal definition of consecration.

Consecration is going all in and all out for the All in All... Stop trying to do God's job for Him. You don't have to do amazing things. You can't do amazing things. Amazing always begins with consecration. It's the catalyst behind every spiritual growth spurt, every kingdom cause, and every revival. And just as amazing always begins with consecration, consecration always ends with amazing... If you aren't hungry for God, you are full of yourself. That's why God cannot fill you with His Spirit. But if you will empty yourself, if you will die to self, you'll be a different person."⁶

So, if as Israel was preparing to go in and take the land and make it there's, they were told to purify or consecrate themselves. This, I think is a good thing for us to do next, before we go out into the market place and be salt in it. So, why not do the following as Joshua told the people?

"Then Joshua told the people, 'Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you'" (Josh 3:5 NLT).

It has been said that,

"God wants to do amazing things for us. That's His job, not ours. Our job is consecration. That's it. And if we do our job, God will most certainly do His."⁷

God is waiting for you, your family is waiting for you, the world is waiting for you to die to self and be hungry for God. God is waiting for us, our families are waiting for us, the world is waiting for us to die to self and be hungry for God. What can we do to stop the gifts to work at your work, Uni, school, shop, and home etc? What do we do about these? What is the gap between where we are and where we ought to be? That is, what are you prepared to do 'STARTING RIGHT NOW,' or change to put this new knowledge into practice in real-life situations?

⁶ Batterson, Mark. *All In: You are one decision away from a totally different life.* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), 19-20, 21.

⁷ Batterson, *All In*, 19.

It is time to develop real-life solutions & processes from what you have heard today & apply them to your real-world problems, issues & relationships, etc. so, it has been said that,

“A marketplace Christian with the spiritual gift of cross-cultural ministry likely would view marketplace ministry as a calling to reach foreign lands with the gospel. The relatively new phrase, ‘business as mission,’ is the tagline for how this spiritual gift operates in the international business world.”⁸

Henry Varley, the British revivalist said,

“The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the person who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him.”⁹

Is that you? Is that us? The world is waiting! It has been said that,

“When you leave this place, you don’t leave God’s presence. You take His presence with you wherever you go.”¹⁰

⁸ “How to Use Your Spiritual Gifts in Business.” <http://ministrytodaymag.com/life/marketplace/22460-using-spiritual-gifts-in-business> (9th August 2016).

⁹ Fackler, Mark. “The World Has Yet to See...” Christian History. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-25/world-has-yet-to-see.html> (9th August 2016).

¹⁰ Batterson, Mark; Batterson, Mark. *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life*. (Kindle Location 963). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.